

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 EB-11 COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00

DOT-00 AID-20 XMB-07 SS-20 NSC-10 L-03 PA-04 PRS-01

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FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5310

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EAID, ETRN, CG, JA, US

SUBJ: MATADI-BANANA BRIDGE AND RAILROAD PROJECT

REF: KINSHASA 8217

1. DURING HIS CALL OCT 23 JAPANESE AMBASSADOR UCHIDA TOLD ME THAT JAPANESE NOMINEE (MR. KANEKO) FOR THE POSITION OF DIRECTOR OF TECHNICAL SERVICES FOR THE BANANA-KINSHASA AUTHORITY (MATADI BRIDGE, RAILWAY EXTENSION AND BANANA DEEP WATER PORT) WILL BE ARRIVING IN FEW DAYS TO TAKE UP HIS NEW POSITION. HE ADDED THAT THE JAPANESE OFFER TO FINANCE BOTH THE RAILWAY AND THE BRIDGE HAS BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE ZAIRIAN AUTHORITIES WITH THE PROVISIO THAT THE AMERICAN COMPANY THUS FAR SELECTED BY GOZ TO BUILD THE BRIDGE (MORRISON KNUDSEN) BE GIVEN AN IMPORTANT SUBCONTRACT BY THE JAPANESE PRIME CONTRACTOR OF THE COMBINED BRIDGE-RAIL PROJECT. UCHIDA ASSURED ME THAT HE HAS A COMMITMENT FROM HIS GOVERNMENT (HE ASSERTED THAT HE HAD RAISED IT WITH HIS PRIME MINISTER) THAT, IN EXCHANGE FOR THE SUPPORT THIS EMBASSY HAS GIVEN THE JAPANESE NOMINEE AS DIRECTOR OF THE PROJECT, AND OUR NOT STICKING WITH THE EARLIER GOZ COMMITMENT TO HAVE MORRISON-KNUDSEN WILL BE ACCORDED A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SUBCONTRACT ROUGHTLY COMPARABLE TO THE VALUE OF THE SALE

OF AMERICAN GOODS AND SERVICES WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN REPRESENTED BY THE BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION.

2. IT HAS SEEMED TO THIS EMBASSY THAT IT WOULD BE IN THE ZAIRE'S INTEREST TO INVOLVE THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT IN THIS FIRST JAPANESE ASSISTANCE PROJECT IN ZAIRE, PARTICULARLY AS AMERICAN EXPORT INTERESS WILL BE PROTECTED. ALSO AMERICAN OVER-ALL EXPOSURE WOULD NOT BE INCREASED.

3. RICHARD KOHNE, VICE PRESIDENT OF INTERNATIONAL ENGINEERING COMPANY, THE ENGINEERING SUBSIDIARY OF MORRISON-KNUDSEN, IS AWARE OF FOREGOING AND REGARDS SITUATION FAVORABLY. HE ADDS, HOWEVER, THAT THE JAPANESE CONSTRUCTION COMPANY WHICH WILL OBTAIN THE PRIME CONTRACT, KAJIMA, HAD EARLIER INDICATED THAT IT MIGHT HAVE A PROBLEM IN ARRANGING FOR CONVERTIBLE YEN FROM THE ENVISAGED JAPANESE GOVERNMENT FINANCING PACKAGE FOR PAYMENT TO M-K. THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR TELLS ME THAT THE SOLUTION OF THIS PROBLEM HAS BEEN FOUND IN THAT SUBCONTRACTOR WILL BE PAID BY GOZ OUT OF YEN LOAN MONIES AND THAT YEN OR ZAIRES CAN BE CONVERTED BY GOZ INTO DOLLARS AND THAT GOZ (BISENGIMANA) HAS AGREED TO THIS PROCEDURE.
VANCE

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